

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of the claims in the application.

1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly, comprising:
a support member having a first end, and an opposite second end;
a first article engaging portion having a first end which is rotatably mounted on the second end of the support member, and an opposite second end; and
a second article engaging portion having a first end which is pivotally mounted on the second end of the first article engaging member and an opposite second end, and wherein the respective article engaging portions each have an outwardly facing, and an inwardly facing peripheral edge, and wherein the individual portions are moveable between a first position, wherein the individual outwardly facing peripheral edges of the individual portions define substantially discrete arcuately shaped surfaces, and the inwardly facing peripheral edges are disposed in spaced relation, one relative to the other, and a second position, wherein the outwardly facing portions of the individual portions define a substantially continuous arcuately shaped surface, and the inwardly facing surfaces of the respective article engaging portions lie in juxtaposed force transmitting relation, one relative to another.

8. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 7, and wherein in the second position the substantially arcuately shaped surfaces defined by the

individual article engaging portions collectively define a substantially continuous arcuately shaped surface which forms a substantially logarithmic spiral.

9. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 7, and further comprising:

a third article engaging portion having a first end which is rotatably mounted on the second end of the second article engaging portion, and which has an inwardly and an outwardly facing peripheral edge, and wherein the outwardly facing peripheral edge of the third article engaging portion forms a substantially continuous arcuately shaped surface along with the first and second article engaging portions when located in the second position.

10. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 9, and further comprising:

a biasing member borne on the second end of the support member and which forcibly acts upon the first article engaging member to bias the first, second and third article engaging members in the direction of the second position.

11. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 9, and wherein the respective first, second, and third article engaging portions have opposite sides, and wherein an axle is borne on the second end of the support member, and further defines an axis of rotation, and wherein the first article engaging portion has first, second and third apertures formed therein, and which extend between the opposite sides, and wherein the first aperture is formed in the first end thereof, and is operable to receive the

axle therethrough, and wherein the second aperture is operable to receive and be forcibly engaged by the biasing member, and wherein the third aperture receives a first shaft, and wherein the inwardly facing peripheral edge of the first article engaging portion is undulating.

12. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 11, and wherein the second article engaging portion has first and second apertures formed therein, and which extend between the opposite sides, and wherein the first aperture is formed in the first end of the second article engaging portion, and wherein the first aperture is operable to rotatably receive the first shaft which is borne on the second end of the first article engaging portion, and wherein a movement limiting area is formed in one of the sides of the second article engaging portion at the first end thereof, the movement limiting area limiting the rotational movement of the second article engaging portion relative to the first article engaging portion, and wherein the second aperture is formed in the second end of the second article engaging portion, and is operable to receive a second shaft, and wherein the inwardly facing peripheral edge of the second article engaging portion is undulating, and wherein the undulating inside peripheral edge of the second article engaging portion matingly cooperates with the undulating inside peripheral edge of the first article engaging portion when the respective article engaging portions are in the second position.

13. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 12, and wherein the third article engaging portion has a first aperture formed therein and which extends between the opposite sides, and wherein the first aperture is formed in the first

end of the third article engaging portion, and is operable to receive the second shaft which is borne on the second end of the second article engaging portion, and wherein a movement limiting area is formed in one of the sides of the third article engaging portion and at the first end thereof, the movement limiting area limiting the rotational movement of the third article engaging portion relative to the second article engaging portion, and wherein the inside peripheral edge of the third article engaging portion is undulating and further matingly cooperates with the undulating inside peripheral edge of the first article engaging portion when the respective article engaging portions are in the second position.

14. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 13, and further comprising:

a force application assembly slideably borne by the support member; and

a linkage having a first end mounted on the force application assembly, and an opposite second end which is affixed on the third article engagement portion, and wherein a force applied to the force application assembly is transmitted to the first, second, and third article engaging portions to move them from the second position in the direction of the first position, and wherein the release of the force applied to the force application assembly permits the biasing member to move the respective first, second and third article engaging portions from the first position in the direction of the second position.

15-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Amended) An anchor assembly ~~as claimed in claim 17, and wherein~~
comprising:

a support member having opposite first and second ends;

an axle is mounted on the second end of the support member and which extends
substantially normally outwardly therefrom;

a first article engaging portion having a first end, and wherein the first end of the
first article engaging portion is rotatably mounted on the axle, and rotates in a first, and an
opposite, second direction;

a biasing member borne on the second end of the support member, and which
forceably acts upon the first article engaging portion to cause the first article engaging
portion to rotate in a first direction;

a second article engaging portion having a first end which is pivotally mounted to the
second end of the first article engaging portion, and an opposite second end;

a third article engaging portion having a first end which is pivotally mounted to the
second end of the second article engaging portion, and an opposite second end, and
wherein an aperture is formed in the third article engaging portion;

a linkage having a first end which is affixed in the aperture formed in the third article
engaging portion, and further having an opposite second end; and

a force application assembly slideably cooperating with the support member, and
wherein the second end of the linkage is mounted on the force application assembly, and
wherein the application of force to the force application assembly has the effect of moving
the first, second and third article engaging portions along a course of travel between a
deployed position, to a non-deployed position, and wherein the application of force further
causes the first article engaging portion to rotate in the second direction, and wherein the

removal of the force applied to the force application assembly permits the biasing assembly to rotate the first article engaging portion in the first direction, and wherein the force application assembly is moveable along a course of travel between a first position, where the force application assembly and the linkage cause the respective article engaging members to move into the non-deployed position where the second and third article engaging members are disposed along, and in adjacent relation relative to, the support member, to a second position which permits the respective article engaging portions to move to the second deployed position, and wherein the force application assembly and linkage substantially restrains the respective article engaging members from moving beyond the second deployed position when a force is applied to the first end of the support member and wherein in the non-deployed position the anchor assembly has a first width dimension, and wherein in the deployed position the anchor assembly has a width dimension greater than the non-deployed position, and wherein each of the article engaging portions have an inside peripheral edge, and wherein the inside peripheral edges of the second and third article engaging portions matingly cooperate with the first article engaging portion when the respective article engaging portions are in the deployed position to transmit force applied to the first end of the support member substantially uniformly to the respective article engaging portions.

20. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 19, and wherein the first, second and third article engaging members when located in the deployed position form a first segmented cam lobe, and wherein the anchor assembly further comprises a second segmented cam lobe which is rotatably mounted on the axle, and wherein the first and second segmented cam lobes are disposed in spaced relation, on

relative to the other, and wherein the respective segmented cam lobes counter rotate one relative to the other, and wherein the biasing member is positioned between the respective segmented cam lobes and forcibly acts upon each to bias the respective segmented cam lobes into the deployed position.

21-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Amended) An anchor assembly ~~as claimed in claim 23~~, comprising:
a support member which is operable to be coupled to a load;
a camming lobe rotatably mounted on the support member, and which has first,
second, and third article engaging portions, and wherein each of the article engaging portions have an inside peripheral edge; ;
a force application assembly slideably borne by the support member; and
a linkage mounted on the force application assembly and coupled in force
transmitting relation relative to the third article engaging portion, and wherein the
application of force to the force application assembly causes the first, second, and third
article engaging portions to move from a deployed position to a non-deployed position, and wherein in the non-deployed position each of the inside peripheral edges of the respective article engaging portions are disposed in spaced relation, one relative to the others, and wherein in the deployed position, the inside peripheral edges of the second and third article engaging portions lie in juxtaposed relation relative to the inside peripheral edge of the first article engaging ~~portion~~ portions.

25. (Previously Presented) An anchor assembly as claimed in claim 24, and wherein the first article engaging portion is rotatably mounted on the support member, the second article engaging portion is rotatably mounted to the first article engaging portion, and the third article engaging portion is rotatably mounted to the second article engaging portion.

26. (New) An anchor assembly, comprising:
a support member having opposite first and second ends;
a first article engaging portion having a first end which is rotatably mounted on the second end of the support member, and an opposite second end; and
a second article engaging portion having a first end which is rotatably mounted on the second end of the first article engaging portion, and an opposite second end, and wherein the respective first and second article engaging portions each have an outwardly facing, and an inwardly facing peripheral edge, and wherein the individual article engaging portions are moveable between a first position wherein the inwardly facing peripheral edges of the respective first and second article engaging portions are disposed in spaced relation one relative to the other, and a second position wherein the inwardly facing peripheral edges of the respective first and second article engaging portions are disposed in force transmitting relation one, relative to the other.

27. (New) An anchor assembly, comprising:

a support member having opposite first and second ends;

a first, second and third article engaging portion, and wherein each of the first, second and third article engaging portions have a first, and an opposite second end, and an inside peripheral edge, and wherein the first end of the first article engaging portion is rotatably mounted on the second end of the support member, and wherein the first end of the second article engaging portion is rotatably mounted on the second end of the first article engaging portion, and wherein the first end of the third article engaging portion is rotatably mounted on the second end of the second article engaging portion; and

a linkage having a first end mounted on the third article engaging portion, and an opposite second end mounted on the support member, and wherein a force applied to the linkage is operable to move the respective first, second and third article engaging portions from a deployed position wherein the respective inside peripheral edges of the respective first, second and third article engaging portions are oriented in juxtaposed force transmitting relation one relative to another, to a non-deployed position wherein the respective inside peripheral edge of at least one of the first, second or third article engaging portions are moved out of force transmitting relation relative to the other article engaging portions.